

At the **MEETING** of the **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Dorchester on Tuesday, 27th March, 2012:

**PRESENT** The Mayor (Councillor T. James) in the Chair.

Councillors V.J. Allan, K.E. Armitage, D.J. Barrett, C.S. Biggs, R.M. Biggs, A.J. Canning, T.C.N. Harries, S.C. Hosford, G.M. Jones, T. Loakes, A.J. Lyall, R.B. Potter, M.E. Rennie and D. Taylor.

In attendance:

Lorna Low, Dorchester Quaker Meeting

**APOLOGIES** for absence were received from Councillors F.E. Kent-Ledger, E.S. Jones, Trevor Jones, P.G. Mann and D.S. Roberts.

61. **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

The Mayor introduced Lorna Low of the Dorchester Quaker Meeting who briefly addressed the Council by way of introduction to a short contemplative silence.

62. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th January, 2012, copies of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

63. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received in accordance with Standing Order 12(3).

64. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 6th FEBRUARY, 2012**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 6th February, 2012 be adopted.

Minute 59 – Grass Verges – Damers Road/Bridport Road Junction In response to a question the Town Clerk confirmed that there would be a report on this matter to the next meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee.

Minute 60 – Mini Roundabout – Fordington Cross In response to a question the Town Clerk reported that the Dorset County Council had indicated that remedial action to the mini-roundabout would be dealt with when the Parish Maintenance Unit was next in the area.

It was

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 6th February, 2012 be adopted.

65. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 5th MARCH, 2012**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 5th March, 2012 be adopted.

Minute 64 – Queen Mother Square, Poundbury Some Members expressed their concerns regarding the ‘shared space’ scheme operating at Queen Mother Square, Poundbury; they felt that there was a danger of collision as both drivers and pedestrians were unsure as to each others’ rights of way and that some additional signage would be helpful. It was noted that there were still some works outstanding which included additional street lighting and a coloured textured surfacing. It was anticipated that these works would be completed by the end of May 2012 and would hopefully reduce vehicle speeds to 20mph.

Arising from the consideration of this matter, a Member suggested that additional signage was required on the roundabout at the junction of Bridport Road and Victor Jackson Avenue.

It was

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 5th March, 2012 be adopted.

66. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 13th MARCH, 2012**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 13th March, 2012 be adopted.

Minute 60 – West Dorset Sports Strategy 2012-17 – Draft One Member reported that with the football pitch at the TA Centre not being available for use by the general public there was now a lack of facilities for training as opposed to formal football pitches.

Minute 68 – Maumbury Rings In response to a question it was noted that the new fence at Maumbury Rings was being funded by Section 106 monies which had been received specifically for this purpose in connection with the development of Maumbury Square.

It was

**RESOLVED**

That, subject to the word ‘Church’ replacing the word ‘Road’ in the heading of Minute 61, the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 13th March, 2012 be adopted.

67. **MAYORAL SELECTION COMMITTEE – 20th MARCH, 2012**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 20th March, 2012 be adopted.

Minute 7 - Prayers Before Council Meetings Some Members expressed their opposition to the recommendation to discontinue the practice of holding any act of religious

observance prior to meetings of the Council or as part of the Mayor Making Ceremony. The Council was reminded of the recent High Court Judgement related to this matter and advice from the National Association of Local Councils which stated that any Council wishing to hold prayers (or an equivalent act) prior to a meeting should do so at a pre-arranged time and in a different venue to that of the meeting.

It was proposed and seconded that in future the Mayor of the day should read an appropriate quote or say some words at the start of Council meetings in order to set the scene for the meeting.

Prior to voting on this matter a request was made for a recorded vote but as this request was not made by either the mover or seconder of the proposal or the Mayor, as required by Standing Order 18, a recorded vote was not taken.

It was

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That in future the Mayor of the day should read an appropriate quote or say some words at the start of Council meetings in order to set the scene for the meeting.

In respect of the recommendation to discontinue the appointment of a Mayor's Chaplain it was agreed that it would be useful to discuss with representatives of Churches Together in Dorchester how alternative arrangements for future civic events might be made and that Churches Together also be thanked for the ready help and support which they habitually offer.

It was

**RESOLVED**

- (2) That discussions be held with Churches Together in Dorchester in respect of the organisation of future civic events etc and that they be thanked for their continuing help and support.

It was also

**RESOLVED**

- (3) That the Minutes of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 20th March, 2012 be adopted.

68. **POLICY COMMITTEE – 20th MARCH, 2012**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 20th March, 2012 be adopted.

Minute 46(b) – Risk Management Panel – 12th March, 2012 The Vice-Chairman of the Policy Committee informed Members of the importance of the work undertaken by the Risk Management Panel and that it would be contrary to best practice not to have a Panel dedicated to the matter. The Town Clerk confirmed that a report on ways to improve member-level input to the Council’s risk management arrangements would be presented to the next meeting of the Policy Committee.

It was

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Council records its satisfaction in respect of the effectiveness of the Council’s arrangements for internal audit.
- (2) That the Council’s strategic and operational risk registers be approved.
- (3) That an application be made for loan sanction in the sum of £60,000 in respect of the proposed external repairs to the Municipal Buildings on terms to be agreed by the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman of the Policy Committee and the Financial Services Provider.
- (4) That the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 20th March, 2012 be adopted.

The Council rose at 7.56pm.

Mayor